

Nov. 3, 2021
Reno County Courthouse
Hutchinson, Kansas

The Board of Reno County Commissioners held the agenda session at the Courthouse, live streaming on YouTube with Chairman Ron Hirst, Commissioner Daniel Friesen and Commissioner Ron Sellers, County Administrator Randy Partington, County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a short sectarian prayer led by Pastor Kim Biery, Trinity United Methodist Church.

Commissioner Hirst commented on the 19.6 percent of Reno County registered voters that turned out to vote in the City/School Election yesterday. He expressed how important local elections were to their communities.

There were no public comments.

Commission Friesen requested to amend the agenda by adding an executive session for 15-minutes to consult with legal counsel requesting Mr. Partington be present. County Administrator Randy Partington also requested to add an Attorney/Client executive session for 30 minutes with legal counsel present. **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Friesen,** to approve amending the agenda as stated adding the executive sessions as item 9A and 9B. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst, to approve the Consent Agenda. It consisted of items 6A-6B including the Accounts Payable Ledger for claims payable on October 29th, 2021, totaling \$296,798.86 and claims payable on November 5th, 2021, totaling \$847,145.38 as submitted; approval of the new lease proposal for the mail machine and folder/insertor from Midwest Single Source as presented by staff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

Community Corrections Director Randy Regehr met with the Board to give his annual department update. He spoke about staff training, client numbers, House Bill 2026 diversion, office space, grants from the state, and starting a pilot project with officers to use technology and reduce paper usage.

Solid Waste Director Megan Davidson met with the Board giving a progress presentation updating the projects at the Reno County Landfill. She started a dateline with dirt work by landfill employees in February 2021 and said that Conco Construction began their portion in May 2021. The new scale house and customer convenience center is currently on schedule and could be operational as early as January 2022. Ms. Davidson also noted that the Gas Collection and Control System Well Expansion in Cell 7 began in October 2021. The project completion should be done by the end of the year to meet the requirements by KDHE. She went over budget costs and savings. SCS representatives Monte Markley and Steve Lineham were in the audience to assist with questions.

Mr. Partington updated the Board on Aging/Transportation Director Barbara Lilyhorn's bus that was involved in a small accident stating the damage was turned over to insurance. There is a mayor's meeting scheduled for December 14th, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. with the location to be determined. He spoke about a letter of support from the Commission for a TECH Grant shared with KDOT to purchase two buses at a cost of \$153,000. The Board authorized Mr. Partington to draft and sign the letter of support.

County Commission reports:

Commissioner Friesen commented on the Kansas Association of Counties session regarding COVID and Health Officers interaction. Sheriff will step in for Mr. Friesen on the City/School Election Canvass on November 9, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. He appreciated Ms. Moody's work on the Reno County website. He spoke about attending a strategic priority StartUp Hutch meeting. He complimented the great work of the County Clerk's Office on the City/School election yesterday.

Commissioner Sellers also complimented the Clerk's Office on their work with the City/County election. He was glad Mr. Friesen spent time with StartUp Hutch. He was pleased with voters going from 3 to 5 commissioners. He felt there needed to be improvements by the county on the timing issue for septic tank approvals. He asked if discussions could begin on long term projects since COVID was slowing down. He was pleased with the consent agenda growing so the Board could address other issues.

Commissioner Hirst spoke about yesterday's program presentation to the City Council with SCKEDD (South Central Kansas Economic Development District) and StartUp Hutch

regarding SCKEDD activities in Hutchinson. He briefly went over Siemens being a supplier.

He spoke about a joint meeting with KCCA/KAC regarding Home Rule status showing the 39 restrictions in the state statutes on matters which Counties are prohibited from addressing with Home Rule authority, suggesting there may be some changes needed with Home Rule. He wanted to discuss long range items/projects for the coming year.

Mr. O'Sullivan requested the Board make a motion to recess into executive session for 30 minutes to confer with the Board's legal counsel on a privileged legal matter, that being contractual matters with the City of Hutchinson requesting he and Mr. Partington remain for the executive session. No formal decision will be made. Following the executive session, the Board will reconvene in regular session and will move to recess again into a second executive session. **Mr. Friesen moved** and amended the motion to not exceed 45 minutes instead of the 30 minutes as in the motion read by Mr. O'Sullivan, **Mr. Sellers seconded the motion.** The motion was approved by a 2-1 roll call vote with Mr. Hirst opposed to the time limit in the motion.

At 10:30 the meeting recessed for five minutes.

The meeting reconvened with all Commissioners, County Administrator Randy Partington, County Counselor Joe O'Sullivan, and Minutes Clerk Cindy Martin, present.

At 10:35 **Mr. Sellers moved, seconded by Mr. Hirst,** to go into executive session for 45 minutes to confer with the Board's legal counsel on a privileged legal matter for the purpose set out in Mr. O'Sullivan's request with no formal action to be taken. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-0.

At 11:20 the meeting returned to regular open session with no binding action taken during or following the first executive session. At that time **Mr. Friesen moved** for the Board to recess once again into Executive Session to confer with the Board's legal counsel on a privileged legal matter, that being the legal requirements to establish a quorum and the super majority vote requirement until such time as the two newly created commissioner district positions were filled. The executive session would be for a period of 15 minutes with no formal decision expected. Mr. Partington was asked to remain for the second executive session. The motion was **seconded by Mr. Sellers** and approved unanimously.

At 11:35 a.m. the Board resumed into regular session and adjourned for the day until 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, November 9th, 2021, for the official canvass of the 2021 City/School General Election.

Approved:

Chair, Board of Reno County Commissioners

(ATTEST)

Reno County Clerk
cm

Date